(c) No such encroachments have been reported.

Rise in Water level at sea shores

997. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a national integrated research project to study the apprehension regarding rise in water level at sea shores in India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and by when the study is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) The Government of India have initiated a national coordinated research project on:

(i) study of past data on sea level rise due to various natural factors;

(ii) the impacts of possible rise in mean sea level assuming the average rise as predicted by experts.

The studies would be completed in about two year time.

"वृक्षारोपण के लिये केन्द्रीय सहायता"

998. **डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय :** क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) केन्द्रीय सरकार देश में वृक्षारोपण को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किसानों को किस प्रकार की सहायता दे रही है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बारे में राज्य सरकारों से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (श्री जेड० आर० अन्सारी) : (क) विकेन्द्रित जन पौधशाला तथा सिन्वी चरागाह विकास की केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित परियोजनाओं के अन्तर्गत किसानों द्वारा किए जा रहे वृक्षारोपण को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है। राष्ट्रीय परती भूमि विकास बोर्ड स्वैच्छिक एजेंसियों को पौधशाला उगाने तथा किसानों को वृक्षारोपण के लिए भी अनुदान देती है। इसके अतिरिक्त राज्य सरकारों के माध्यम से कार्यान्वित सामाजिक वानिकी कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत मुफ्त या रियायती दर पर पौधवितरण, पौधशालाएं उगाने व वृक्षारोपण हेतु तकनीकी सलाह, प्रशिक्षण तथा विस्तार कार्यकलापों आदि के लिए सहायता दी जाती है।

(ख) और (ग) वनीकरण कार्यक्रम के लिए योजना प्रस्तावों पर प्रत्यक वर्ष विचार किया जाता है। सातवीं योजनावधि के दौरान सामाजिक वानिकी सहित सभी वनीकरण कार्यकलापों के लिए राज्यों/संघ शासित क्षेत्रों हेतु कुल आबंटन तथा उपलब्धियां नीचे दी गई हैं :

वर्ष	आबंटन (करोड़ रुपयों में)	उपलब्धि (पौध संख्या करोड़ों में)
1985-86	384.94	302.00
1986-87	492.49	352.37
1987-88	540.83	355.11
1988-89	620.00	393.23 (फरवरी, 89 तक)
1989-90	702.00	540.00 (लक्ष्य)

यह कहा जा सकता है कि किसानों को इसमें से प्रत्यक्ष रूप से 50 प्रतिशत से कुछ अधिक लाभ प्राप्त होता है।

Irrigation potential

999. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state what is the comparative rise in the irrigation potential created during 1986, 1987 and 1988 and what is the potential likely to be created during the coming years to achieve the foodgrains target by 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): The additional irrigation potential created during 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 is 2037.28 th. ha., 2101.76 th. ha. and 2302.11 th. ha. respectively. The plan-wise target for creation of irrigation potential is fixed in consultation with State Governments at the time of finalisation of Five Year Plan and Annual Plans. Creation of potential in the subsequent years will depend upon the Plan allocations.

Demand notice on M|s. I.T.C. Ltd. issued by the Collector, Central Excise, Meerut

1000. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1685 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 1988 regarding demand notice issued on M|s. Indian Tobacco Co. (I.T.C.) Ltd. by the Collector, Central Excise, Meerut for a sum of Rs. 80.30 crores and state:

(a) whether the writ petition filed by M|s. I.T.C. Ltd. in the Allahabad High Court challenging the demand for Rs. 80.30 crores has since been disposed of; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The writ petition filed by M|s. I.T.C. Ltd. in the Allahabad High Court challenging the demand for Rs. 80.30 crores is still pending;

(b) Does not arise.

Income-tax on pension of retired Government employees

1001. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pension payable to the retired Government employees is taxable; and

(b) if so, what is the justification for taxing the hard earned pension of the retired Government employees which is the minimum amount received by them after long years of service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pension payable to retired employees (including retired Government employees) is chargeable to income-tax as it bears the character of income. A pensioner is, however, not required to pay income-tax unless his total income (including income by way of pension) as computed under the Income-tax Act exceeds the exemption limit, which, at present, is Rs. 18,000|-.

Issuance of chargesheets to A.S.T.Os of Delhi Administration

1002. SHRI B. L. PANWAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Assistant Sales Tax Officers of Delhi Administration have been issued chargesheets;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) what are the charges against the Assistant Sales Tax Officers along with the names of the officers who have been issued chargesheets; and